

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for serving applications comprising the steps of:  
receiving from a centralized location at least one component status publication generated based upon activity information specified in at least one component usage message generated by at least one application component, each said component status publication specifying a usage level for the application component, wherein each said component usage message is generated after a predetermined period of time and is automatically delivered to the centralized location, wherein said component message specifies the activity information for the application component, and wherein the activity information specifies at least one among a number of users accessing the corresponding application component, a number of requests received by the corresponding application component within the predetermined time interval, and a rate at which resources of the corresponding application component are used, wherein said component status publication specifies a state of said at least one application component, wherein said centralized location determines the state based upon at least one of said component usage messages, wherein responsive to an overload condition, said centralized location adjusts the specified state of said application component in said component status publication from a steady-state to an overload-state, and wherein responsive to an end of said overload condition, said centralized location adjusts the specified state from the overload-state to the steady-state;

acquiring a client request to execute one or more computing tasks, wherein said computing tasks include at least one among a data processing task and a data management task;

selecting a server response for said client request from among a plurality of possible server responses to execute said computing tasks based at least in part upon said component status publications, wherein each possible server response differentially utilizes application components to execute said computing tasks, and wherein said selecting further comprising:

determining that a server response to execute said computing tasks can be provided using either one of said external components or one of said local components;

comparing an usage level of said external component specified in said component status publication with a predetermined usage threshold value; and

if said usage threshold value is exceeded, using said local component to provide said server response for executing said computing tasks, otherwise using said external component to provide said server response for executing said computing tasks; and

responding to said client request with said selected server response.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of registering each of said application components with the centralized location that publishes said component status publications.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: specifying within said centralized location a usage message format; and,

formatting said component usage messages in accordance with said usage message format.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, said method further comprising the steps of:

receiving said client request and said at least one component status publication in a control layer;

calling from within said control layer a data method contained within an application layer; and,

activating at least one of said application components responsive to said calling step.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, said selecting step further comprising:

identifying said plurality of server responses for said client requests;

for each of said server responses for executing said computing tasks, determining a required utilization for each application component that generates said server response;

comparing said required utilizations with available application component capacity, wherein said available application component capacity is determined at least in part from said component status publications; and,

selecting said server response based at least in part upon said comparing step.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, said selecting step further comprising:

if said application component is in said overload-state, selecting the server response that limits usage of said application components which triggered said overload condition.

10. – 28. (Cancelled)